



VIEWBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL
Love of Learning, Learning for Life
SUN SMART POLICY

RATIONALE

- 1.1 The Sun Smart Policy has been developed to ensure that all children and staff attending Viewbank Primary School and its Out of School Hours Care Facility are protected, as are practicable, from skin and eye damage caused by harmful ultraviolet rays.
- 1.2 The Sun Smart Policy is needed because:
 - Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world.
 - Currently two out of three Australians will contract skin cancer at some stage of their lives.
 - The major cause of skin cancer is the exposure to ultraviolet radiation during childhood and adolescence.
 - It has been recommended from the Anti Cancer Council that children have exposure to the sun during the months from May to August to ensure they get enough vitamin D.

PURPOSE

- 2.1 To heighten the awareness of the whole school community of the importance of sun safe behavior in our children now, in order to prevent the harmful effects of U.V. radiation.
- 2.2 To encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures from September to April.
- 2.3 To encourage appropriate behaviors in our students to reduce the risk of Vitamin D deficiency from May to August.

GUIDELINES

- 3.1 The school will raise awareness and educate the whole school community about the dangers and effects of overexposure to the sun during September to April and exposure to get adequate vitamin D during May to August, through information sessions, newsletter articles and curriculum activities.
- 3.2 The school will endeavor to ensure there is adequate provision of shade, as far as practicable, within the school grounds for the number of children by planting trees and building permanent shade structures. The children will be encouraged to use these areas during the September to April period.
- 3.3 The school will seek ongoing support from parents and the community for the Sun Smart Policy and its implementation.
- 3.4 The school will ensure that Viewbank Primary School broad-brimmed hats which provide protection for the face, neck and ears be available for purchase from the school uniform shop.
- 3.5 Children will wear the appropriate clothing i.e. sunsmart hats and sleeves, at sport/physical education sessions, excursions (including swimming), in the Out of School Hours Care facility at recess times and for all extra curricular activities during Term 1 and Term 4.

- 3.6 Children will be encouraged to wear the same protective clothing as required during Term 2 and Term 3.
- 3.7 Children will be involved in a variety of activities, which promote and encourage Sun Smart awareness e.g. Fun Hat day, visiting speakers etc.
- 3.8 It is the responsibility of parents to provide their children with personal sunscreen, labeled with their name, to be used at school, during excursions and at the Out of School Hours Care facility.
- 3.9 Staff are to encourage children to apply their own SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen is encouraged, with time for application, wear a hat and play in shaded areas.
- 3.10 It is the responsibility of the Out of School Hours Care Facility to remind children to wear hats, apply their own sunscreen and play in shaded areas.
- 3.11 On days of extreme heat the students will have provided appropriate indoor activities.

IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Children who do not have adequate protection will be directed from the sun. Particular care will be taken between 10 am-2 pm (11 am – 3 pm daylight saving time) when the UV levels reach their peak.
- 4.2 Teaching Teams will incorporate Sun Smart activities as part of their programs.
- 4.3 The Out of School Hours staff will implement the Sun Smart Policy
- 4.4 The School Council will take into consideration the provision of shaded areas when planning for future buildings, school ground needs and improvements.
- 4.5 Regular newsletter articles will occur to inform the school community of safe sunsmart practices.

EVALUATION

- 5.1 The number of children demonstrating sunsafe behaviors.
- 5.2 The availability of suitable shaded areas within the school grounds in proportion to the school population

Useful links: www.sunsmart.com.au